

In the Claims

Claim 6 (Previously presented). An *in vitro* screening method for identifying insect tolerant genotypes or clones, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) growing plantlets in an *in vitro* system;
- b) screening the plantlets for molecular variation of somaclones using RAPD analysis *in vitro*;
- c) selecting the somaclones having molecular variation;
- d) exposing the somaclones of step c) to insect larvae or nymphs; and
- e) identifying the surviving somaclones.

Claims 7 (Previously presented) The method according to claim 6, further comprising growing the surviving somaclones into adult plants.

Claim 8. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 6 wherein the somaclones are somaclones of *Mentha arvensis*.

Claim 9. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 6, wherein the insect larvae is *Spilarctia obliqua*.

Claim 10 (Previously presented) The method according to claim 6, wherein the inset larvae is third or fourth instar larvae.

Claim 11 (Previously presented) The method according to claim 6, wherein the somaclones are generated vegetatively by tissue culture, glass house, or in the field by asexual reproduction methods.

Claim 12 (Previously presented). An *in vitro* screening method for identifying insect tolerant genotypes or clones, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) growing plantlets in an *in vitro* system;
- b) screening the plantlets for molecular variation of somaclones using RAPD analysis *in vitro*;

- c) selecting the somaclones having molecular variation;
- d) exposing the somaclones of step c) to insect larvae or nymphs;
- e) identifying the surviving somaclones; and
- f) growing the surviving somaclones into adult plants.

Claim 13 (Previously presented). An *in vitro* screening method for identifying insect tolerant genotypes or clones, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) growing plantlets in an *in vitro* system;
- b) screening the plantlets for molecular variation of somaclones of *Mentha arvensis* using RAPD analysis *in vitro*;
- c) selecting the somaclones of *Mentha arvensis* having molecular variation;
- d) exposing the somaclones of step c) to insect larvae or nymphs;
- e) identifying the surviving somaclones of *Mentha arvensis*; and
- f) growing the surviving somaclones into adult *Mentha arvensis* plants.